

EXHIBIT “12”

1 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
2) OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY
3 COUNTY OF RICHLAND) COUNSEL
4) [REDACTED]

4 In the Matter of:)
5)
6) TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD
7 Respondent.)

7 On-the-Record Appearance of:
8 Russell Lucius Laffitte

8 * * * * *

9 Thursday, June 23, 2022

10 10:09 a.m. to 5:48 p.m.

11 Friday, June 24, 2022

12 10:19 a.m. to 1:05 p.m.

13 * * * * *

14 A P P E A R A N C E S

15 John S. Nichols, Esquire
16 Disciplinary Counsel
17 Caitlin C. Heyward, Esquire
18 Assistant Disciplinary Counsel
19 Jeffrey I. Silverberg, Esquire
20 Assistant Disciplinary Counsel
21 Sara P. Morris, Esquire
22 Assistant Disciplinary Counsel
23 Office of Disciplinary Counsel
24 P.O. Box 12159
25 Columbia, South Carolina

26 [REDACTED]
27 [REDACTED]
28 [REDACTED]

29 E. Bart Daniel, Esquire
30 Marshall T. Austin, Esquire
31 Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough
32 151 Meeting Street, Suite 600
33 Charleston, SC 29401
34 Appearing on behalf of Mr. Laffitte

35 DEBORAH M. McCURDY, RPR
Certified Court Reporter

DEBORAH M. MCCURDY, RPR
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

INDEX OF WITNESSES

RUSSELL L. LAFFITTE

By [REDACTED] 5

By Ms. Heyward 260

By Mr. Silverberg. 307

By Ms. Heyward 317

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 379

EXHIBITS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

RUSSELL L. LAFFITTE -- BY MS. HEYWARD

353

1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
18 Q Uh-huh. Why was Westendorf -- why was Chad
19 approached instead of you?
20 A I was approached.
21 Q You were approached? Okay. And did you decline?
22 A I did.
23 Q Why did you decline?
24 A By that time I was so busy. You know, when I first
25 started doing them when I was doing them, you know,

RUSSELL L. LAFFITTE -- BY MS. HEYWARD

354

1 I just had nightmares of how much work it was on
2 Hannah and Alania Plyler.

3 Q Uh-huh.

4 A I did not want to get in another one of those. I
5 was extremely busy at my office. You know, by this
6 time I was either chief operating officer or -- I
7 was not a -- I was more of a chief lending officer
8 than chief operating officer, even though that was
9 my title. And I was running our branch and had
10 gone -- we had already just done a merger several
11 years back prior, and we were still trying to work
12 through all the collections --

13 Q Right.

14 A -- and all of that. I just did not have time.

15 Q Okay.

16 A So I didn't want to do it.

17 ■ [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED]

23 ■ [REDACTED]

24 Q Okay. I'm going to hand you two exhibits that are
25 marked as 57 and 58. Wait, let's change that to a

RUSSELL L. LAFFITTE -- BY MS. HEYWARD

355

1 9. I have given you what is 58 and 59, is what we
2 are looking at. And these are text messages that
3 you produced to us this week, is that right? And I
4 have highlighted a couple of relevant ones. There
5 is one dated December 2018, it looks like it is
6 from Alex Murdaugh to you, which says, I need to
7 get with you. I want you to be a PR of a couple of
8 estates. It won't be much work and I'll be able to
9 pay you well. Do you see that?

10 A I did, I saw it. When I perused the texts, I also
11 saw those when I did it.

12 Q What estates is Alex referencing to?

13 A I don't know. I was thinking maybe -- I don't
14 remember when Cristiani -- those weren't estates,
15 though, so I'm not sure. It could have been Gloria
16 Satterfield. I'm not sure when that took place,
17 but it was somewhere around there.

18 Q Okay. And then 59, August 14th, 2018. He again
19 asked you at the bottom of the page, Are you
20 interested in being PR of an estate? We will be
21 able to pay you well. Do you see that?

22 A I do.

23 Q Each time he says he will be able to pay you well,
24 but do you know if he is -- what estate Alex is
25 referring to?

RUSSELL L. LAFFITTE -- BY MS. HEYWARD

356

1 A I do not.

2 Q Okay. And you don't -- did you have any further
3 conversation about the theft?

4 A I would safely say that I at least called him and
5 told him, I was like, you know -- I just don't -- I
6 don't remember what took place in 2018. I mean, I
7 just -- I saw those and I was thinking, Huh, wonder
8 what estates those were, because I know I'm going
9 to get asked.

10 Q All right. And when he says he is going to be able
11 to pay you well, what did you understand that to
12 mean?

13 A I just assumed he would pay me whatever fee that
14 you normally would get. It shouldn't be any more
15 or any less, it should be -- generally there is
16 a -- whatever you call it.

17 Q So if it was a larger settlement, you would be paid
18 more?

19 A More. If it was a smaller settlement, I would be
20 paid less.

21 ■ [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 ■ [REDACTED]

25 ■ [REDACTED]

RUSSELL L. LAFFITTE -- BY MS. HEYWARD

358

1 MR. SILVERBERG: When you were approached to
2 serve as PR in the Satterfield matter, were you
3 ever told the nature of the claims in that matter?

4 THE WITNESS: Are you talking about the
5 amounts?

6 MR. SILVERBERG: No. Did you know who the
7 parties were?

8 THE WITNESS: I did. Gloria Satterfield, she
9 had worked for years for Alex and she was a
10 customer of the bank, so, yes, I did know her.

11 MR. SILVERBERG: But do you know the claims
12 were against Alex Murdaugh?

13 THE WITNESS: Yes.

14 MR. SILVERBERG: Okay. So Alex Murdaugh
15 approached you to serve as PR for somebody --

16 THE WITNESS: I don't know whether he called
17 me or Cory Fleming, somebody. I know Alex called
18 me. And I told him, No, I wasn't interested.

19 MR. SILVERBERG: Right. But Alex told you
20 that Gloria Satterfield was filing a claim against
21 -- let me finish my question -- filing a claim
22 against him and there was going to be a settlement
23 and that Alex wanted you to serve as PR for the
24 person filing a claim against him, is that
25 accurate?

RUSSELL L. LAFFITTE -- BY MS. HEYWARD

359

1 THE WITNESS: That's correct.

2 MR. SILVERBERG: Okay. And --

3 THE WITNESS: I don't know --

4 [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

RUSSELL L. LAFFITTE -- BY MS. HEYWARD

360

1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

5 THE WITNESS: I mean, you know, Alex would
6 be -- he would, what do you call it, you know,
7 he -- Gloria worked for him. And, you know, and he
8 had helped her and been doing things for her for
9 years.

10 MR. SILVERBERG: Uh-huh.

11 THE WITNESS: Everybody in the community I
12 think, not just myself, knew about her falling and
13 being in the hospital, subsequently dying. And I
14 just remember that Alex would say, You know, we are
15 trying to help the family. We are going to sue
16 myself to, you know, to try to get the family some
17 money. So, no, it didn't seem strange to me.

18 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

RUSSELL L. LAFFITTE -- BY MS. HEYWARD

361

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

[REDACTED]

MR. SILVERBERG: And the fact that, you know, he was asking you to serve as PR for Gloria Satterfield to recover funds based on a claim against himself, that at all did not -- is that any -- is that a reason why you thought this isn't something you should touch and therefore not be involved?

THE WITNESS: No, it wasn't. They would sue each other. So, I mean, it wouldn't --

MR. SILVERBERG: What do you mean they would sue each other?

THE WITNESS: They sued -- I always heard the story about Buster Murdaugh, Alex's grandad, suing -- or his wife suing him, or vice versa, you know, or if one of them fell at their friend's house, suing their friend for -- suing their homeowners. No, it didn't surprise me.

BY MS. HEYWARD:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RUSSELL L. LAFFITTE -- BY MS. HEYWARD

368

1 THE WITNESS: On Arthur Badger.

2 MR. SILVERBERG: Yes, sure.

3 THE WITNESS: Hindsight, I personally believe
4 he asked me to do so he could steal the money.

5 MR. SILVERBERG: Alex asked you to be PR in
6 the estate of Donna Badger so that he could
7 misappropriate the Arthur Badger claims?

8 THE WITNESS: Right. I truly believe that he
9 targeted, intentionally targeted myself, Chad, and
10 Palmetto State Bank because he knew the
11 relationship that we had with him personally, the
12 relationship we had with him professionally, as a
13 borrower/customer, and the relationship we had with
14 the firm. He knew we weren't going to ask a lot of
15 questions.

16 MR. SILVERBERG: Do you have any idea or has
17 anyone told you why Alex may have targeted the
18 clients he did when it came to misappropriating
19 funds? In other words, do you think this was just,
20 you know, it is an opportunity whenever the
21 opportunity presented itself, or do you think he
22 specifically figured out which clients he tried to
23 misappropriate funds from?

24 THE WITNESS: This is all just my opinion.

25 MR. SILVERBERG: Yes, that's fine.